

# Pittsford

## National Fish Hatchery

## Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Resources Complex

### Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Patrick J. Leahy (D-VT)  
Senator James M. Jeffords (I-VT)  
Rep. Bernard Sanders (I-VT)

Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-NY)  
Senator Hillary R. Clinton (D-NY)  
Rep. John E. Sweeney (R-NY-20th)  
Rep. John M. McHugh (R-NY-23rd)

### Contact

Henry Bouchard  
Acting Project Leader  
Pittsford National Fish Hatchery  
4 Holden Road  
North Chittenden, VT 05763  
Phone: 802/483 6618  
Fax: 802/483 2254  
TDD: 800/877 8339  
E-mail: Henry\_Bouchard@fws.gov

### Purpose

Pittsford National Fish Hatchery produces sea-run Atlantic salmon as part of the effort to restore migratory fish populations in the Connecticut River basin. The hatchery also produces lake trout for restoration in the lower Great Lakes and assists New York Department of Environmental Conservation with culture of the threatened lake sturgeon for restoration in the St. Lawrence River and Finger Lakes.

### Management Activities

- Annually produces 350,000 Atlantic salmon fry and 80,000 smolts for release in the Connecticut River basin.
- In 2005, released 162,100 landlocked Atlantic Salmon into Lake Champlain and rivers that flow into the lake.

- Initiated the production of more than 150,000 lake trout for lower Great Lakes (Ontario and Erie) in 2006.
- Presents the Adopt-A-Salmon Family and other programs in schools and at other community events.
- Annually produces up to 5,000 imperiled lake sturgeon for the St. Lawrence River and Finger Lakes in New York State.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1 800/344 WILD  
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*Atlantic salmon fry with sac*

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### Highlights

Atlantic salmon fry and smolts raised at the hatchery are released into the Connecticut River. Pittsford was responsible for the most adult returns of Atlantic salmon to the Connecticut River when 529 adult salmon ascended the river in 1979.

The hatchery has produced 70 percent of the landlocked salmon stocked in Lake Champlain from the program's inception in 1980 through 2005. The salmon support a thriving sport fishery with a value to the local communities in Vermont and New York estimated at 500,000 angler days and \$50 million per year. Due to uncertain future budgets, the landlocked salmon production for Lake Champlain has been transferred from Pittsford.

In 2006, Pittsford will assist with lake trout production for the Great Lakes due to loss of production capability in that system. The longevity of this new program has yet to be determined.

Pittsford is an historic hatchery and will celebrate its centennial in 2006. As a fisheries technical center in the first half of the 20th century, the station pioneered many culture techniques for a dozen or more species of trout, char, grayling and salmon. The hatchery is considered to have ideal water chemistry and temperature regime for salmonid culture.

### Issues

Aging hatchery facilities are in need of upgrade and repair.

Severe budget constraints are forcing the Fish and Wildlife Service to reduce the operations budgets of most fisheries field stations in the Northeast. As a result, the Lake Champlain landlocked Atlantic salmon program at Pittsford was transferred to the White River National Fish Hatchery.

